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W. W. G., Ann Arbor, Wis.—The little insects called snow-fleas are probably the *Podura nivicola* of Dr. Fitch. They are found in winter at the foot of trees, under the bark of which they live, and also about manure heaps and in cellars.

The *Heleochara communis*, a homopterous insect, allied in form to the Cicada, or seventeen-year locust, produces the frog-spittle seen in mid-summer on grass. The larva sucks in the sap, which passes through the body and forms a frothy mass concealing the insect.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

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ESSEX INSTITUTE, Salem.—*First Field Meeting at Haverhill*, on Tuesday, July 2, 1867, postponed from the preceding Thursday, on account of the weather. Haverhill, located on the north bank of the Merrimac, is a thriving and busy place, noted for its extensive manufacture of shoes. It abounds in interesting historic lore; for a period of seventy years was one of the most exposed of the frontier towns, and many harrowing tales of Indian barbarity is among its well-authenticated legends. The principal point of attraction to the naturalist is "Kenoza Lake," formerly known as the "Great Pond," a lovely sheet of water, embosomed among the hills, covering an area of about three hundred acres. During their rambles in its vicinity the party was rewarded in finding many interesting specimens in the various departments.

The afternoon session was held in the North Congregational Church, and was called to order at 2.30 o'clock, *Vice-president Fowler* in the chair. *Dr. George B. Loring*, of Salem, made a few eloquent remarks on the prospects of the year, and the occasion which had brought them together. *F. W. Putnam*, of Salem, gave a description of the habits of the common Plant-louse. *Dr. James R. Nichols*, of Haverhill, remarked that chemical science had recently discovered an effectual destroyer of plant insects, a new substance called Carbohc acid, which is eliminated from coal tar, and made farther comments on this subject. *Dr. N.* also spoke of the collections and library of the Institute, and alluded in very appropriate terms to the recent donation of Mr. George Peabody, for the promotion of science and useful knowledge in this county. *Edward S. Morse*, of Salem, drew a comparison of the studies of the naturalist near the sea with those made in the interior, and alluded to the families of animals found in these respective localities which are worthy of study. *Alpheus Hyatt*, of Salem, spoke of the geological features of this section of the county. *Rev. Dr. Seeley*, of Haverhill; *Hon. Allen W. Dodge*, of Hamilton; *Professor A. Crosby*, of Salem; *Dr. J. Spofford*, of Groveland; *Hon. Warren Ordway*, of Bradford, and others, made interesting remarks.

*Second Meeting at Andover.*—After a cordial reception by *Professor Thayer*, of the Theological Seminary, the company divided into small parties, and visited the various objects of interest; many went to the library and museum of the Theological Seminary, the new building of the Phillips Academy, etc. The naturalists repaired to the woods and meadows, and were amply repaid for their excursions. The meeting was held in the South Congregational Church. *Dr. George B. Loring*, of Salem, of the Field Meeting Committee, presided, and, on taking the chair, alluded to several interesting episodes in the history of this town, and briefly stated the objects of the Institute. *A. Hyatt*, of Salem, spoke of water as equalling fire in its destructive power,—its agency in producing the various changes on the earth's surface during the several geological epochs. *E. S. Morse*, of Salem, gave a description of several snails, which he had found during the previous ramble, and illustrated his subject by drawings on the blackboard. *Professor Hitchcock* exhibited a map of Andover, upon which he had designated, by different colors, the localities of the four principal kinds of rocks—granite, stratified gneiss, mica schist, and rocks resembling Quincy sienite. *George D. Phippen*, of Salem, spoke of the flora. *Rev. Mr. Smith*, pastor of the church; *Rev. C. R. Palmer*, of Salem; *Mr. F. G. Sanborn*, of Andover; *Professor D. Crosby*, of Dartmouth College; *Professor A. Crosby*, of Salem; *President Larrabee*, formerly of Middlebury College, and others, addressed the meeting.

*Third Meeting at Beverly Farms*, on Thursday, August 1, 1867.—Disembarking at Pride's Crossing on the Gloucester Branch Railroad, the party separated into groups, under guides familiar with the adjacent country. One of these groups rambled over the wild and elevated region known as "Beverly Commons," and noticed several large and peculiar boulders, also a large variety of interesting plants; another group visited the sea-shore, and strolled through the grounds surrounding the elegant mansions in that beautiful locality. A party of naturalists passed the forenoon in dredging the harbor for crabs, worms, mollusks, and zoöphytes.

The afternoon session was held in the Second Baptist Church, at 2 o'clock, *Vice-president A. C. Goodell, jr.*, in the chair. After a few preliminary remarks from the chair, reading records, correspondence, and donations, *C. M. Tracy*, of Lynn, described the flora peculiar to this region. There were, he observed, marked peculiarities in the flora of Essex county and a part of Middlesex, which seemed to indicate the influence of the geological formation; examples were cited to sustain this supposition. *George D. Phippen*, of Salem, also spoke on the general subject of botany. He observed that all plants were in some sense wild plants, since those cultivated in one country, grow spontaneously in others. *Messrs. E. S. Morse* and *A. Hyatt* spoke of the various objects found during the previous dredgings,—the first named discussed the mollusca, the other the radiates, and also described the different belts or zones in which animals and plants are found, each having its peculiar species.

*Joseph E. Ober*, of Beverly Farms, gave a valuable historical sketch of West's Beach. He said that the name was derived, not from the point of compass, but from John West, who held a grant of the place from Salem in 1660. *Rev. A. P. Peabody, D. D.*, of Harvard University; *R. S. Rantoul*, *F. W. Putnam*, *E. N. Walton*, *T. Ropes*, and *H. Wheatland*, all of Salem, made remarks appertaining to the objects of the meeting.

*Fourth Meeting at Kittery, Maine*, on Thursday, August 21, 1867.—The first meeting outside the limits of the State, and the second held out of Essex county. The principal objects of attraction, aside from the natural history of the place, are the U. S. Navy-yard, and the historical associations; here are to be seen the mansion of Sir William Pepperell, the richest merchant and most extensive land-owner in New England at the time when he won his military reputation at Louisburg, and a baronetcy from the English crown; a portion of this building has been changed, but enough remains to give an idea of its pristine grandeur; also, the Sparhawk mansion, built by Sir William for his married daughter, is elaborately decorated; the Cutts' house, etc., etc.

The afternoon session was held in the stockholder's building of the P. S. & P. Railroad, kindly granted to our use by the President and Directors of the road, and was called to order at 2 o'clock, by Vice-president *Goodell*. Various botanical and zoölogical specimens, culled by the members, were laid upon the table, and the chairman called upon various gentlemen to explain them. *Mr. C. M. Tracy*, of Lynn, discussed the floral, and *Messrs. F. W. Putnam* and *E. S. Morse*, of Salem, the zoölogical. *Dr. Elliott Coues*, of U. S. Army, took for his theme the genus *homo*, or that part of it which is native to Arizona Territory, the Apache Indians, and presented some extended remarks illustrative of their habits and character. *Rev. E. C. Bolles*, of Portland, spoke for the Portland Society of Natural History, and then gave an interesting discourse on microscopic fungi. *Rev. Joseph Banvard*, of Patterson, N. J., responded for a new society, founded on the plan of the Institute. *Rev. George D. Wildes*, of Salem, alluded to the Historical Associations of this place. *James N. Buffum*, of Lynn, and others, addressed the meeting. *Capt. Stephen Decatur*, U. S. N., who is now totally blind, and resides at Kittery, was present at the meeting, and seemed to enter fully into its spirit.

*Fifth Meeting at Ipswich*, Friday, October 4, 1867.—A charming old town, replete with many old historical associations. On arriving, the party proceeded to the Town Hall, where the baskets were deposited, from which they diverged in various directions, some into the woods, along the banks of the river, and down to the very interesting beach just below its mouth. Some took the Topsfield road, in search of plants and snails; others to "the neck," where some ancient Indian mounds were inspected.

The afternoon session was held in the vestry of the Methodist Church. Vice-president *Goodell*, upon taking the chair, explained the objects of the Society, and briefly recounted its history. *George D. Phippen*, of Salem,

spoke of the flora. *E. S. Morse* described the Indian relics found in the mounds on the neck, also those which he had found at Goose Island, in Portland harbor. He concluded his remarks by describing the manner in which certain of the lower animals eat, illustrating the process with figures on the blackboard.

CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. Oct. 8, 1867. — Dr. J. J. Jewell, of the Lake Tunnel, read a report in relation to the geology of the Chicago Lake Tunnel.

Dr. Meyers, of Fort Wayne, Ind., then described the finding of the bones of the Mastodon, presented by him to the academy. He said the locality of the bones was accidentally discovered by a farmer named Trush, who was then digging a drain through one of his fields in Noble county, Indiana. He learned of the discovery and purchased the bones found by the farmer, as well as the right to make farther explorations. In carrying on the investigations he called in the aid of Dr. Stimpson, of Chicago. These two spent several days in superintending excavations, and were rewarded by the accumulation of one of the finest collections of mastodon bones ever found. These evidently belong to three individuals, two adult (probably male and female) and one young one. The skeleton of the calf and one of the adults are nearly complete, and capable of being mounted. They lay at the depth of four or five feet, in a stratum of peat overlaying blue clay, containing lacustrine shells. In the peat among the bones were found fragments of boughs and branches of several kinds of wood, in a good state of preservation, some of which had been gnawed by the beaver. The spot at which the bones were found is a small basin-shaped depression in the middle of a corn-field, which was formerly a willow swamp, and has but recently been sufficiently well drained to allow of cultivation. It is a region where traces of ancient lakes and beaver-dams are particularly abundant.

The size of the adult mastodon has not yet been estimated. That described by Dr. Warren measured seventeen feet in length by eleven feet in height, and it is supposed that the largest of these here described will not fall far short of this in dimensions.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Naturalist's Note Book.* London. November, December, 1867.  
*Land and Water.* London. November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, December 7, 14, 21, 28, 1867. January 4, 11, 1868.  
*Hardwicke's Science Gossip.* November, December, 1867. January, 1868.  
*Cosmos.* November 23,\* December 7, 14, 21, 28, 1867. January 4, 11, 18, 1868. Paris.  
*From Arizona to the Pacific.* By Elliott Coues, M. D. (From the *Ibis*, July, 1867.) 8vo, pp. 16.  
*The Field.* November 30, December † 14, 21, 1867. January 25, 1868. London.  
*Quarterly Journal of Science.* London. January, 1868.  
*American Bee Journal.* January, February, 1868.  
*Popular Science Review* (Quarterly). London. January, 1868.  
*Chemical News.* January, February, 1868.

\* The number for Nov. 30 was never received at this office; will the publishers please mail another copy?

† The number for Dec. 7 was never received.